Demand for quicker and long-term strategy for solving Drinking Water Problem in Uttaranchal

श्री हरीश रावत (उत्तरांचल) : महोदया, उत्तरांचल राज्य के अधिकंश भागों में पेयजल संकट की स्थिति पैदा होती जा रही है। वर्षों पहले जो पेयजल योजनाएं निर्मित हुई थीं, जल स्रोतों के सूखने या योजनाओं के तकनीकी रूप से क्षतिग्रस्त होने के कारण पेयजल संकट और गहरा होता जा रहा है। राज्य सरकार अपने सीमित संसाधनों से इस स्थिति का मुकाबला करने का प्रयास कर रही है। राज्य सरकार के प्रयासों में केन्द्र सरकार से उदार सहायता अपेक्षित है। राज्य सरकार ने केन्द्र सरकार के पास विभिन्न योजनाओं के तहत पेयजल योजनाओं के कई प्रस्ताव भेजे हैं जिनमें अतिरिक्त हैंड-पम्पों को लगाए जाने का प्रस्ताव भी सम्मिलित है। केन्द्र सरकार को चाहिए कि राज्य सरकार के परामर्श से इस क्षेत्र में पेयजल समस्या के समाधान के लिए त्वरित व दीर्घकालीन दोनों प्रकार के कार्यक्रम तैयार करे।

हिमाचल का यह क्षेत्र कई महत्वपूर्ण नदियों का उद्गम स्थल है। यहां की हिमानी नदियां उत्तरी भारत की जीवन रेखाएं हैं। हिमालय के इस क्षेत्र में पिछले कुछ वर्षों से जलवायु में आ रहे परिवर्तनों के फलस्वरूप धीरे धीरे ग्लेशियर घट रहे हैं और प्रति वर्ष हिमपात और वर्षा का औसत भी घट रहा है। इसका एक बड़ा कारण उत्तरांचल और उसकी तलहटी में पेड़ कटान और आग से जंगलों को पहुंच रहा नुकसान भी है। आबादी के बढ़ते दबाव के कारण वनों का कटाव रोकना राज्य सरकार के लिए कठिन हो रहा है। विकास और आबादी के दबाव को कम करने के लिए इस क्षेत्र के लिए विशेष प्रकार की विकास की रणनीति बनाना समय की आवश्यकता है। राज्य सरकार के लिए अपने संसाधनों से ऐसी कोई रणनीति बनाना संभव नहीं है अतः केन्द्र सरकार यहां की आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति के लिए आवश्यक धन दे और आवश्यक मदद करे। धन्यवाद।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We will now have the reply on the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Agriculture. Shri Ajit Singh.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

THE MINISTER OF AGRIUCLTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : Madam Deputy Chairperson, yesterday this House discussed for over four hours the working of the Ministry of Agriculture. Many Members highlighted the problems being faced by farmers very eloquently, with logic, with feelings, and some hon. Members also gave very good suggestions. As is usual, when you discuss agriculture, when you discuss the plight of farmers...

श्री खान गुफ़रान जाहिदी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मंत्री जी किसानों की जुबान में बोले।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : There are Kisans all over the country, not only in north India. And he can speak in English also. There is no problem. English is also the accepted language in the House.

श्री खान गुफ़रान ज़ाहिदी : वह कहां ओबजैक्ट कर रहे हैं? हम तो कह रहे हैं कि किसानों की जुबान में बोलें।

श्री अजित सिंह : किसानों की जुबान तो तमिल भी है, तेलुगु भी है, गुजराती भी है, पंजाबी भी है इसलिए सबको समझ आ जाए, and then, we have provided translation facilities. Many hon. Members also spoke in English here. Of course, I will switch over to Hindi also in-between. That is the only other language that I can switch over to.

But the question is not one of language when you discuss the plight of farmers. The discussion does not remain confined to the Ministry of Agriculture only. The Finance Ministry, the Fertiliser Ministry, the Water Resources Ministry, the Food Ministry and so on are also discussed. Everything is discussed, and naturally so, because farmers comprise 66 per cent of our population and they contribute to the extent of about 25 per cent of the GDP.

Madam, our agricultural sector has undergone a vast change over the last few years, and it is still undergoing changes. Therefore, the Government's thinking, policies and programmes have also to change with the changes in agriculture. Not too many years ago, we used to import wheat, rice, milk powder etc. from abroad, and today we are in a position to export all these cereals and many other products. On everything, whether it is wheat or rice or milk or eggs or potatoes or other vegetables, we are from number one to number five in the world today. So, from an economy of scarcities, we have moved to an economy of plenty now, but, with that, the problems have also changed. Now, marketing has become a problem. When marketing is a problem, quality becomes more important. Therefore, our problems in agriculture are changing. Another change is that our holdings are getting smaller and smaller. The average holding today is 1.55 hectares and all the hon. Members here know that 80 per cent of the holdings are below two hectares. So, combined with these two things, our problems have changed. Therefore, as I mentioned, our thinking has to change how to solve these problems. Because of this change in the economy from scarcity to plenty and also the small holdings, the demand on input side of the agriculture has changed. The science and technology has become much more important to the agriculture now. To

maintain the income of the farmer in that small holding, you need better quality seeds. Now, everyone knows that there is the problem of water. You need better methods of irrigation, drip irrigation, sprinkler system. Since we have over-exploited our soil, urea and DAP are not sufficient to maintain the fertility of our soil. Micro nutrients are also needed. So, on the input side, these changes have taken place. As far as seeds go, the hybrid seeds improve productivity. We all know that our research system has produced many hybrid seeds. But, in India, today let me take just one example of rice. Out of 44 million hectares where rice is cultivated, only 0.2 million hectares use hybrid seeds. Hybrid seeds' productivity is as much as three times that of the other seeds. In our country, only 10 per cent of the seeds are provided by the commercial firms. Ninety per cent seeds are grown by the farmers themselves or they exchange between the farmers. If we are going to improve the quality, if we are going to increase the productivity, because on smaller holdings you have to increase productivity to maintain the income level, then the seed's quality has to be improved. Also, now bio-technologically modified seeds, genetically modified seeds are becoming important. So, our research system which is one of the best in the world has also to change. Our research has now to be more market-driven and more farmer-friendly. They also have to put emphasis on bio-technology now: The Government propose to change the Seed Act. We are bringing in a new Seed Act. The Seed Policy has been announced by the Government, and a Seed Act is being worked out so that all these new factors in seed, how to improve the productivity, how the new seeds can be promoted, all that, the new Seed Act will incorporate. As I mentioned, now, when we have shortage of water, the Government has been giving subsidy on drip irrigation for long time. In his Budget Speech, the hon. Finance Minister mentioned that to better utilise the subsidy and to make the drip irrigation more widespread, a Committee is being formed under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh because with the scarcity of water, not only we have to look at the linking of the rivers, the dams, water conservation, water harvesting methods, we also have to change our crop pattern in many areas. We also have to look for crops which use less water, and therefore, sprinkler system and drip system become very important.

The third thing is, with the seeds changing, with the irrigation changing, with the need for fertiliser changing, we have changed the Fertiliser Control Order. Up to now, micro nutrients were not a concern. We have changed the Fertiliser Control Order so that the licensing is no longer required for the dealer. He only has to intimate to the Government that he wants to deal

in fertilisers. Also for the first time, micro nutrients are allowed to be sold as fertilisers. So, all these changes are taking place. Another big change, which affects farmers, is the Plant Protection Act which was passed by the Parliament in the Monsoon Session. Because it is the time of globalisation, the world is becoming smaller, to protect the interests of Indian farmers, the Plant Protection Act was passed by this august House in the last Session. Under that Act, an authority has to be formed which will frame the rules and regulations.

Now, with the increase in all these things means, increase in the input cost, hybrid seeds, genetically-modified seeds, drip irrigation, micronutrients, means the input costs are going up and that also means that the need for credit is going up. In the Ninth Plan the Government provided a Plan credit flow of Rs.2,33,700 thousand crores as against the credit flow projection of Rs.229,000 crores. If we want to maintain our productivity and improve the quality - as I mentioned the input costs are going up - we need a credit of more than Rs.7,000,00 crores in the Tenth Plan. That is one of biggest concerns that the Government has, *i.e.*, how to provide this credit to the farmers. The Kisan Credit Card Scheme was launched a few years ago. It has been a great success. Almost three crore credit cards have been issued. Last year alone they provided credit of Rs.20,000 crores to the farmers. Along with that comes the question of interest rates because interest rates in our agricultural sector are higher than in any other sector. As I said, we have the marketing as one of the biggest concerns. Unless interest rates are brought down for the agricultural sector, that problem cannot be solved.

Now, cooperative credit is another sector. Besides the commercial banks and rural banks, the cooperative credit unions have been in a financial trouble for some time. For revitalising or restructuring of the finances of the cooperative credit unions, a Committee was formed under Mr. Jagdish Kapoor. Another Committee was formed under the then Minister of State for Finance, Mr. Vikhe Patil. They have suggested how the Cooperative Credit Unions can be revitalised. The Cabinet will be discussing it very soon. The proposal from Vikhe Patil Committee is that 60 per cent of the money would be provided by the Centre and the States will provide 40 of the money because the credit unions are crucial for credit in the agricultural sector. Even now, more 45 per cent of the credit in the agricultural sector is provided by the credit unions and more than 80 per cent or almost 90 per cent credit for the crop loans is provided by the credit unions. Therefore, restructuring and revitalising of the credit unions is very important. And that is why this package is being brought.

As I mentioned, the Government will be taking a decision on that very soon. When we mention importance of science and technology in agriculture, and how to get information, the extension works become very important. Now, the challenge that we face today is through all that great work being done by our research system, how to make a two-hectare farmer to understand it and know about it and avail of the fruits of that research. That is the challenge that we all are facing. The first Green Revolution, of course, was brought about because the scientists came up with many new seeds and technologies. But a great contribution was made by our officers also. These officers include Agriculture Extension Officers, Block Development Officers, etc. But in today's changing environment, for getting these extension works, we cannot just rely on the Government. We want the private sector to participate in it. That is why the Government has agri-clinic, agri-business scheme which was launched more than a year ago. One hon. Member did ask about it also and what has happened to it. More than one thousand agriculture graduates have been imparted training. They have finished their training and more than 400 of them have started their own agriclinic, agribusiness. That is a very encouraging sign because farmers are willing to pay, if somebody gets them the new technologies and what the new technologies means is : to give them new seeds and help them in marketing.

So, out of about 1,000 graduates, who have completed their training, more than 400 have already started their business.

Madam, Krishi Vigyan Kendras is another programme, which was started many years ago, and, so far, about three hundred Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been opened in the country. The idea is to have one Krishi Vigyan Kendra in each district. But, as I mentioned, now, the role is changing. Even the role of agricultural extension is changing. Madam, till now, Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been doing some research and providing information to the farmers. But, in this new age, all we want is that Krishi Vigyan Kendras should be well connected through internet with all our research centres and the agricultural universities and they should become the service centres to the farmers and provide soil testing, pesticide testing and all other information that is required by a farmer. So, emphasis is more now on making the Krishi Vigyan Kendras provide information to the farmers and they should be able to get that information if KVKs they are tied up with our research institutions and the agricultural universities. So, Madam, extension is of great concern. And, once the farmer knows what is available, how to get it, etc, it is good. Okay,

we tell him that 'new seeds are good for you.' If we tell him that 'we have developed new hybrid seeds and they will improve your productivity and production tremendously', he will be happy. How to make these new seeds available to the farmer is also a challenge. And, that is why a lot of private initiative is needed in that. And, I am happy to say that a lot of private initiative is being taken in this regard.

So, I was mentioning that the credit is becoming very important. Credit unions are being revitalised. The interest rates are of concern. And, the hon. Finance Minister did announce in his Budget Speech that the interest rate to the agriculturists, the most preferred customers, would be 2% above or below PLR.

Marketing is another area, which is of great concern to us all. With surplus in almost everything that we produce, whether they are vegetables, whether they are fruits, whether they are cereals, the marketing has become a very important issue. Marketing, of course, has to be with quality. Madam, several hon. Members have also mentioned that the corporates are coming into marketing. Yes. We do want to encourage the contract farming. Basically, contract farming means, the farmer remains as the owner of the land but he has a contract with the processor, who not only markets his produce but also provide him the better inputs so that he can produce better quality products. But, the concern remains, as some hon. Members mentioned, that we have to be very careful while allowing the corporates into contract farming and that the interests of the poor farmers should be protected. They have also asked how the interests of the poor farmers are protected if we allow corporates into the contract farming. We have suggested that we are working with the States on this. Basically, Agriculture is a State Subject. We can only ask the State Governments to change their laws and do these things. It is a State Subject. We did call a meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of all the States. A Committee was set up. The States of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have suggested enacting legislation by changing agricultural and marketing laws because those laws have to be changed if we want to allow the contract farming. We told them that we would sit with them and give a shape to a model contract farming legislation so that the interests of the small farmers are protected. We wanted a tripartite contract between the Government, processor and the farmer. The main role of the Government is to see that the interest of the small farmer is protected. Some kind of insurance should be there in this contract farming system - because some hon. Members have mentioned that in

Punjab some company came and then pretty soon it went away - so that the farmer is not renegaded on his promise of supplying the inputs and the processor does not wind up and just leave the place one day. So, in the proposed legislation or contract some kind of provision for insurance has to be there, both for the processor and farmer. So, the Government is alive to the problem of safeguarding the interests of small farmer in this contract farming technique. But we also do realise if cooperatives may come into contract farming, they will hardly touch. We have lakhs of villages. How many villages will they go to? How many farmers will they contract to? We should be happy even if it is one per cent. So, the vast majority of farmers need some mechanism to market their produce. Cooperative is the only method through which they can market. Now, cooperative is, again, a State subject. Hon. Members know we, at the Centre, have changed the cooperative law, multi-State cooperative law. The Government's interference from those multi-State cooperatives has almost been removed. You can have maximum of 21 Directors; and, the Government can have at the most three Directors, and that too only if they have more than 51 per cent of the shareholding. They cannot suspend; they cannot dissolve; they cannot decide how to collect the money; they cannot decide how to audit. They audit themselves. Therefore, the Centre has passed a law in respect of multi-State cooperatives. But multi-State cooperatives are very few in number. Of course, every village in India has a cooperative. But I am sorry to say that in most of the States the cooperatives are not real cooperatives. They are a department of the Government. Elections have not taken place for years and years. Whenever a new Government comes, they appoint their own people. Some problem has recently been going on about the milk cooperative unions, tying up with the NDDB for marketing. And, the questions are being raised that the milk cooperatives will lose their character. In all the multi-State cooperatives, the Chairmen and the MDs are elected. Rest of them are all IAS officers. They stay there for a year or two. They have no interest in having a long-term stay. So, unless the States change their cooperative laws, and make cooperatives true cooperatives, instead of a department of the Government, I think, this marketing problem, which the farmers face, is going to be very difficult to solve. I would urge upon all hon. Members - who come from different States, and I am sure have a great clout on their Government - they could influence their State Governments to change the cooperative laws. I keep calling the Cooperative Ministers. We even offer that we would give them incentives if they change their law, and make their cooperatives a cooperative in a real sense. Of course, some States have very good cooperative laws. My friend,

Shri Lalu Yadav, is not here, he would have been very happy to learn that we do not always criticise Bihar. The State of Bihar has one of the best cooperative laws. Their cooperative milk union is the only non-Government PSU kind of thing that makes money. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N. JOTHI (Tamil Nadu) : Tamil Nadu is one of the forerunners of it.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Many other States have also made laws. But let me point out that even those States, which have made new laws, have made it voluntary to the cooperatives to register under the new law or under the old law. With the Government there, and the politicians running the cooperatives, very few register under the new law. Most of them are happy to be governed and get the patronage of the Government. Therefore, the cooperatives laws have to be changed. Some States have very good cooperatives. States like, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat have done very well in cooperatives. But still these laws have to be cnanged so that they become true cooperatives. So, as I said, these three factors have become very important for agriculture now. Because of new kind of seeds, new fertilizers, new irrigations, and because the input costs have gone up, credit has become very important. Therefore, we cannot just rely on commercial banks. Even nationalised banks never invested 18 per cent in the rural sector. How are, now, in the liberalised environment, these banks going to invest money in the rural sector? Therefore, the cooperative credit structure has to be revitalised and restructured, and the interest rates for the farmers have to be brought down. There is no question about that. The third point, as I said, is that marketing has become very important. We encourage this. There is a lot of hue and cry that corporates are coming into marketing, but, as I said, even with all the encouragement to contract farming, without cooperatives, no marketing can really take place.

The Government, as I said just now, does realise that the diversification is needed now. So, horticulture is being promoted. We have a technology mission for horticulture for the North-Eastern region, and very soon that is going to include Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh also. We have a coconut technology mission, so that new uses of the coconut can be promoted. Now, when we talk about diversification, we have to have the cold storage chain; it has to be there because this is a perishable produce. So, the Government has provided subsidies for opening new cold

storage facilities,. and, I think, during the Tenth Plan period about Rs. 200/- crores worth of subsidy would be given to increase the cold storage. Also, the Gramin Bhandaran Yojana has been started so that our storage problem in cereals and other products can be reduced. I want to mention that dispersed storage should take place rather than concentrated storage, and, that is why, the Gramin Bhandaran Yojana has been started.

Water is a problem; so, on-farm water management has been started. It has been a great success in many States like, Bihar, Assam and Eastern U.P. For preserving water, we have to take various measures, as I mentioned, water conservation, water harvesting, construction of dams, linking of rivers etc. It is not a question of just last year's drought, but water is going to be a problem in agriculture now. So, many new initiatives are being taken in this changed environment in which our farmer has to work. And the one thing about which our hon. Members are very concerned is WTO, and rightly so. First, let us accept that WTO is a fact of life. Whether you like it or not, you are not going to get out of it now. The world has become smaller; not only in agriculture, but in every field. And, now, more than 144 members are part of the WTO. We joined WTO a long time back, and I must say, from the agreement that we signed if we have not reaped any benefits that were promised when the WTO was being promoted, our agriculture has also not suffered because of the kind of safeguards we took when the WTO was signed. And, my friends sitting opposite to me should be happy about that. I am referring to Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, who was a part of that WTO discussions which were going on at that time. But, at the same time, I want to mention that we have not reaped any of the benefits that were promised by the WTO. We all thought that our Dairy would become very prosperous; we will be exporting milk, cheese, and butter all over the world. It has not happened because the European Union provides Rs. 35,000 subsidy per cow. So, any of the benefits of increase in trade in agriculture have not reached us, and the concern that remains now is how to protect the interests of our farmers in this new round of WTO discussions. Unlike many other countries, we have a ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal) : Can you tell us what is the deadline?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : No new deadline has been formed. The last deadline, as you know, has passed, and with the change in the world situation now; because of this war in Iraq, and the disturbance that has taken place in

the equations between the European Union and the USA, that thing has gone into a little background now. But the concern is there; we have to protect our farmers in this new round of WTO discussions. If we expect that all these countries will cut down their subsidies to suit us, it is not going to happen. So, our protection is in the form of tariffs, and we will try to maintain it. But, as you know, these negotiations are very complex negotiations, there is a lot of give and take, a lot of groups have formed, and a lot of networking is needed. But, still, I have confidence in the skill of our negotiators and in the public opinion that we have that we are determined to safeguard the interest of our farmers.

So, I wish to thank all the Members for a very...*(Interruptions)*...I would like to say something about what Mr. Pachouri said. When Mr. Pachouri started his speech, he took out some press clippings wherein something was said by me and my colleague, Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav. I don't have the details of that now, but, basically, what it said was that the Ministers are unhappy with the Government or the Budget or something that agriculture is not getting enough share. Let me put it this way that, in this Government, for the last 2-3 years, agriculture has reached the centre-stage. We are articulating our concerns. We are pointing out the problems. This is what democracy means.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) : मैडम, मंत्री जी से मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि 16 अप्रेल, 2003 के दैनिक जागरण के हवाले जो समाचार छपा है, वह सही है या नहीं है?...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसभापति : सुरेश जी, पहले मंत्री जी की बात तो पूरी हो जाए, फिर आप अपनी बात कर लें। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI AJIT SINGH : For 50 years, the previous Governments have neglected agriculture. But, now, in this Government, agriculture is the centre stage.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Madam, it is not the question.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : That is the question.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : The point raised by Mr. Pachouri was that a Cabinet Minister - as per reports that appeared in the newspaper - has criticised the Budget. I want to know whether a Cabinet Minister is entitled to

air his opinion publicaly in the Press when he is very much part and parcel of the formulation of the Budget. And, when the Finance Bill will be passed by the other House, he is to press the button and support the Finance Bill. The question that arises is, what is the concept of collective responsibility? I am not concerned whether for 50 years, something has been done or not. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT SINGH : If you had done this, this problem would not have been there...*(Interruptions)*... If, in your Government, you were concerned about it - whether agriculture was important or not - this problem would not have been there.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : No; that is not the question. The question is whether you criticised the Budget...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT SINGH : No...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE Is what appeared in *"Dainik Jagran"* dated 16th April correct or not? You say, 'yes' or 'no'. I will accept it.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Okay. In the cutting which Mr. Pachouri referred to, I said, in democracy, every sector gets its share of resources according to the strength they have, according to the lobbying that is done. What is wrong with that, I don't know? What is wrong with that?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Because, if you say that the Government's decisions have been taken under the pressure of a lobby, then, you are casting aspersions. You have to say...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Madam, this was not said by me. In that article, nothing was mentioned about the Budget. It was a general discussion about the situation of the farmers in the country and what needs to be done.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : No; you cannot have that. It is a serious matter. A Cabinet Minister cannot say that decisions have been taken under the pressure of a particular lobby.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : No; I did not say that...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : It means to say that, he is to identify the lobby. He is to say which decision has been taken under the pressure of which lobby.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Nothing was said like that. Madam Chairperson, are we going to discuss...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please listen to him...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : If the hon. Minister says that 'I have not said it', I will accept it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Madam, are we going to discuss. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let me listen to his explanation because, sometimes, whatever is said is not...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT SINGH : What I want to say is, are we going to discuss what was published in that newspaper? We just mentioned it. It has not been laid on the Table of the House. Its authenticity has not been confirmed.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : मैडम, एक मिनिस्टर इस तरह की बात करें।...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI AJIT SINGH : No; Mr. Pachouri. Any newspaper can print anything. I am not going to answer that...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Pachouri, please take your seat...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : मैडम, आपकी खुद रूलिंग है। मैं उस रूलिंग को कोट करना चाहूंगा।...**(व्यवधान)**. .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :Please take your seats...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : But the Minister cannot run away simply by saying that the decisions have been taken under the pressure of a lobby. He cannot say this.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : I did not mention any Budget...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : It is not the question of Budget. You correct your statement. You said that there are lobbies which are putting puressure, and they are running away with the concessions from the Government.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : I did not say that...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, I did not say that.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Then, you say that you did not say this...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Why should I say that?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : That is all right...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : This matter has to be closed...*(Interruptions)*.. I have to adjourn the House...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : मैडम, इसमें इन्होने कहा है कि जिसकी जितनी लॉबी मजबूत होगी उसको उतनी ही हिस्सेदारी मिलेगी ।...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI AJIT SINGH : That is a general statement. Can you deny that?...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : फिर आप कह रहे हैं कि "नीतियां बनाते वक्त केन्द्र में किसान नहीं होता बल्कि वह वर्ग रहता है जिसकी लॉबिंग मज़बूत है।"...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI AJIT SINGH : No...*(Interruptions)*... The fifty years of your Government. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The discussion on the Ministry of Agriculture and reply is over. ...*(Interruptions)*... The House is adjourned for lunch till 2.00 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at two minutes past two of the clock.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.